

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ORIGIN SCI-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: SCI/AE:JLBLOOM

APPROVED BY: SCI/AE:JLBLOOM

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R 172118Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ROBERT CITRON,
SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY,
NO. 60 GARDEN STREET,
CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

UNCLAS STATE 228807

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO'S 13497 ACTION DEPT INFO AEC GERMANTOWN
OCT 17TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS TOKYO 13497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SHIP MUTSU

REF: A. SMITHSONIAN TELEX 10/1/74; B. STATE 218344;
C. STATE 222719.

1. REF. B. DEPT. CORRECT IN THAT NO DETECTABLE RADIO-
ACTIVE MATERIAL LEAKED FROM MUTSU AND THAT NO PERSONS
RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT RADIATION FROM MUTSU REACTOR
OPERATION. FROM AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, EVENT DID NOT
AFFECT ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER WOULD APPRECIATE PASSING
FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO SMITHSONIAN SO THEY CAN
DECIDE ON FOLLOW-UP.

2. NUCLEAR SHIP MUTSU DEPARTED HOME SERVICE PORT IN
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MUTSU CITY, AOMORI PREFECTURE, JAPAN ON AUG. 26,

12:45 AM FOR POINT 800 KM EAST OF CAPE SHIRIYA, NORTHERN JAPAN, WHERE INCIDENT OCCURRED ABOUT 5:00 PM SEPT. 2. INDICATIONS WERE THAT 0.2 MILLIROENTGENS GAMMA RAYS AND NEUTRONS AT 3,300 COUNTS PER MINUTE WERE DETECTED OUTSIDE THE REACTOR SHIELD. DURATION OF INCIDENT NOT PUBLISHED BUT BELIEVED SHORT, FEW MINUTES OR LESS, BECAUSE ALARM SYSTEM WAS TRIPPED BY HIGH COUNT RATE. THEREAFTER AMID CONTROVERSY THE SHIP REMAINED AT SEA WITH ITS REACTOR SHUT DOWN (EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR SHORT LOW POWER DIAGNOSTIC TESTS) UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF OCT. 15 WHEN IT WAS BROUGHT BACK TO ITS SERVICE PORT AT MUTSU CITY.

3. SHIP WAS BUILT BY ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY INDUSTRIES CO. LTD, AND THE REACTOR WAS BUILT BY MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES CO. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE JAPAN NUCLEAR SHIP DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (JNSDA).

4. JAPAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY IS INVESTIGATING THE EVENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN FURTHER ENQUIRIES SPECIFICALLY ON SMITHSONIAN INTEREST, REF. A, UNLESS SMITHSONIAN, IN LIGHT OF ABOVE EXPLANATION, STILL REQUIRES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. HOWEVER, EMBASSY PLANS CONTINUE NORMAL REPORTING. INCIDENTS OF THIS TYPE OFTEN HAVE POLITICAL IMPACT AND EMBASSY SUGGESTS GUIDELINES REFERRED TO IN PARA. 1 OF REF. C SHOULD INCLUDE COORDINATION WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY.
HODGSON
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, NUCLEAR HAZARDS, RADIOACTIVE WASTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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